Development Plan for Horticulture

3558. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan for development of infrastructure to assist horticulture

industry has been chalked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States exporting horticulture product to the maximum extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): fa) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing schemes of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure (PHM) of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities which include pre-cooling units, refrigerated transplant vehicles, specialised transport vehicles, grading/packaging etc. and Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through participation in Soft Loan under which financial assistance is provided in the form of soft loan far setting up integrated projects in the field of fruits and vegetables marketing and processing etc. In order to give a major thrust to the develepment of cold storages, government recently approved a scheme for construction/expansion/unodernisation of cold storages and storages for horticultural produce under which capital subsidy is provided and the scheme is under implementation by NHB. Besides, department of Food Processing Industries is also implementing a schemes for creation of Infrastructural facilities of post harvest management and cold chain facilities for food processing including integrated project of cultivation and processing of mushroom, hops, gherkins and baby conn. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is also giving grants-in-aid for setting up modified/controlled atmosphere cold storages for facilitation of export

(c) The state-wise data for export of horticultural products are not Maintained.

Rashtriya Krishi Buna Yojana

3559. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) the central assistance towards payments to farmers afflicted with crop failure under the scheme;

(c) the suggestions if any received from the State Government to increase the Central contribution; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The salient features of the National Agricultural\Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) are as under:—

(i) Coverage of all farmers including share croppers and tenants.

(ii) Coverage of annual commercial/horticultural crops, besides food crops and oilseeds.

(iii) Farmers have option to select the sum insured as high as 150% of average yield.

(iv) Assessment of crop losses on individual basis for localised calamities to be experimented in few areas.

(v) Premium rates in respect of food crops and oilseeds may range from 2.5% to 3.5% during Kharif and 1.5% and 2.0% during Rabi or actuarial rates whichever is less. In respect of annual commercial/ horticultural crops, premium will be charged based on actuarial rates.

(vi) Small & Marginal fanners will be eligible for subsidy in premium to the extent of 50% which would be phased out over a period of five years.

(b) As per the provisions of the Scheme indemnity claims beyond 100% of the premium in respect of food crops and oilseeds will be equally shared by Central and State Governments. In respect of annual commercial/ horticultural crops, claims beyond 150% of premium will be paid out of the Corpus Fund, to which contributions are made by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 basis.

(c) and (d) Certain State Governments have made suggestions to keep the sharing pattern between Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 2:1 instead of 1:1 as envisaged under the new scheme. The suggestion would be considered at the time of the review of the scheme.